Usage and Awareness of Open Access Resources among the Faculty Members of Higher Educational Institutions of Indore: A Study

Synopsis

Submitted to

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Introduction

Prior to the advent of open access, faculty members had limited publication options for sharing their research outputs, primarily relying on journals published by commercial publishers and relevant academic societies. These challenges compounded by the expensive nature of publishing and restricted access, impeding the dissemination of critical research information to the public Limited access posed obstacles to the effective utilization and application of research information, while also constraining the visibility of researchers.

In recent times, various open access models have emerged, offering convenient access, reduced publishing costs, and improved management of scholarly output within Institution.

What is Open Access?

Open access refers to unrestricted, cost-free access to electronic resources and information. Open access resources can include any kind of digital or electronic content, including text and multimedia. It includes both scholarly and non-scholarly content. mostly open access information available on online platforms. It gives free unrestricted access to anyone with the help of the internet to read, download and distribute research articles, papers, or any other content available for open access.

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) was a landmark meeting on open access held in Budapest, Hungary, in December 2001. After 10 years on September 12, 2012, Budapest Open Access Initiative come up with the statement, which defined open access resources as follows: (BOAI10, n.d.) "By 'open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution and the only role for copyright in this domain should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited."

Types of the Open Access Publishing Models.

1. Green open access: In this type of open access model researchers publish their work in paid or subscription-based journal However, they also make a version of their article available in an online repository, this occurs after embargo period ends.
   In embargo period the researcher work is available only to subscribers of the journal, and after embargo period ends the research work is freely available and easily accessible to the public in open access through repositories.

2. Gold open access: In this type of open access the research article is available immediately in open access after the publishing. However, the cost of publishing the article is covered by the author or by the institution that wants to publish their article in open access. In gold open access the Author doesn't have to wait for a certain period to publish their work in open access like in green open access.

3. Hybrid open access: Hybrid open access: This is a combination of both subscription-based and open access publishing. Most of the articles in hybrid open access are subscription-based; users must pay the subscription fee to access the articles in their journal, but the author can also make their article publicly accessible in open access by paying the fee to the publisher.

4. Diamond/platinum open access: This form of open access does not require writers or readers to pay anything. Instead, universities, funding agencies, or other non-commercial groups bear the expenses of publishing and distributing research findings.

5. Bronze open access: This model allows free access to articles but without permission to reuse or redistribute them. It provides limited open access in terms of content reuse rights.

6. Gratis open access: This concept entails providing free access to articles while imposing restrictions or limitations on the commercial reuse of the information.

7. Libre open access: This model allows readers to reuse, remix, and redistribute articles for free, frequently under a Creative Commons license.

Benefits of Open Access.

- Open access resources are freely available to everyone, allowing easy access without any cost or price barrier.

- Open access resources, available in digital form, can be accessed from anywhere, eliminating any geographical barriers.

- These resources are cited more frequently due to their high accessibility, allowing anyone, from anywhere and at any time, to access them.

- The publication costs of open access research articles are generally low.

- Open access enables the immediate dissemination of research findings worldwide, which proves beneficial in emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Open access resources directly benefit individuals who cannot afford expensive subscription-based resources.

Review of Literature

Matonkar and Dhuri (2021) investigated awareness of free and open access resources among students and faculty members during the COVID-19 epidemic. The study revealed that the majority of the (64.4%) respondents were aware of open access resources. The preferred sources of information were the internet 55.4%, followed by printed books 41%, and friends and teachers 3.6%. Furthermore, the study found that 91% of the respondents used the Internet daily followed by a small percentage using it on alternate days (5%), once a week (1.5%), or rarely (2.5%). When it came to knowing about open access resources, 75.2% of the respondents believed that Google was helpful. In terms of availability of open access resources during COVID-19 period, 48.5% of the respondents were not aware, while 39% were aware but did not utilize these resources. Only a minority, 12.1% of the respondents, made use of these resources.

Khan et al. (2021) conducted a "survey on awareness, usage, and attitude of digital open access resources among university students in Bangalore and Belgaum, Karnataka, India". The finding revealed that 58.8% of the respondent aware of the open access resources. Only 23.3% of the respondents were currently using open access resources. Further, the study showed that the majority 66.2% of the respondent believed that open access resources are beneficial for students.

Sultan and Rafiq (2021) conducted a survey of HEC-recognized university libraries in Punjab and Islamabad. The study revealed that the libraries demonstrated a high level of awareness regarding the Pakistan Research Repository and open access journals. However, the libraries displayed a lesser degree of awareness regarding open access publishing models and were not fully familiar with the Budapest Open access Initiative (BOAI).

Mahmud et al. (2020) investigated the awareness level of faculty and students regarding open access resources. The study revealed that both faculty members and students were aware of open access resources, with faculty members showing a higher level of awareness compared to students. Faculty members were found to frequently use open access resources for their research work and to update their knowledge.

Chinnadurai and Tamizhchelvan (2019) conducted a study on Open access Resources for Social Science. The study specifically focused on DOAJ (Directory of Open access Journals), DOAB (Directory of Open access Books), and Open DOAR (Directory of Open access Repositories) within the social science subjects. The findings indicated that a total of 5,705 journals were identified in DOAJ under the social science subject category. In comparison, 3,014 journals were found in the Science and Technology subject category, and 2,481 in the Medical Science subject category. The study also highlighted that De Gruyter Open had the highest number of journals published in DOAJ, with 360 journals. This was followed by Elsevier and BioMed Central with 349 and 310 journals, respectively.

Shashidhara and Sambathkumar (2019) conducted a study on awareness and use of open access resources in selected dental college libraries in Bangalore. The study revealed that both faculty members and students are aware of open access resources. It was found that Total of 39.28% of participants including both faculty members and students expressed willingness to publish their work on open access journal, and 45.71% of participants, including both faculty members and students reported being familiar open access archives. Furthermore, the study showed that a total of 55% of participants, including both faculty members and students were aware about the copyright policy.

Bala et al. (2018) conducted a study titled "Awareness of Open access Resources among the Researchers of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana." The study reported that 46.99% of researchers utilize open access resources on a daily basis, followed by 36.14% on a weekly basis, and 16.87% rarely. The findings also indicated that approximately half of the researchers use open access resources because they are freely available. Moreover, around 37.34% of researchers encountered difficulties in finding relevant information. Interestingly, the study revealed that 3.62% of researchers did not cite the open access resources, and 9.63% of researchers believed it was not necessary to cite them.

Manchu and Vasudevan (2018) conducted a study on awareness of open access publishing and institutional repositories. The study revealed that 83.2% of the respondent were aware of institutional repository and open access publishing. A total of 68.3% of the respondent learned about institutional repositories and open access publishing from internet and online resources. Additionally, the study showed that 64.8% of the respondent already published their work in and open access publishing.

Aiyebelehin et al. (2017) conducted a study to examine the "Awareness and Use of Open access Journals by LIS Undergraduates in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma." The findings revealed that the awareness level of African Journals Online (AJOL) was high, while the awareness level of other open access journals was comparatively low. The study also found that the majority of the students (87.8%) utilized open access journals for various purposes, including research projects, seminars, generating research topic ideas, and citation purposes.

Nagaraj and Bhandi (2016) conducted a study titled "Use and Awareness of Open Access Resources among Researchers: A Case Study of Raman Research Institute." The study found that the majority of the respondent familiar with the concept of open access. Around 73% of respondents reported that they are using open access resources. Cost-effectiveness and ease of access are reasons for using open access resources. Further, the study revealed that institution fails to provide support in terms of training and awareness campaigns related to open access.

Okore et al. (2015) conducted a study to investigate the awareness level of scientists regarding open access electronic resources in Agricultural Research Institutes in Edo State, Nigeria. The researchers discovered that scientists exhibited awareness of open access electronic resources. Among the various resources, scientists had the highest access to oral communication and interactions with colleagues' literature. This was followed by correspondences, seminar, and conference papers.

Prince and Saravanan (2015) conducted “A study on awareness and perception towards open access resources among the users in the higher educational institutions in Kanyakumari district.” The study included PG students, research scholars, and faculty members from colleges and universities. The findings revealed that 59.4% of the respondents utilized open access resources for their work. Additionally, the availability cost free access to materials was identified by 45.4% of respondents as the reason for their usage. Furthermore, the study indicated that 67.9% of the respondent’s expressed satisfaction with open access resources.

Yang and Li (2015) conducted a study titled "University Faculty Awareness and Attitudes towards Open Access Publishing and the Institutional Repository: A Case Study." According to the survey, almost 90% of respondents were aware of open access journals, and 40% had published their work in an open access publication. Only 27% of respondents were aware of the OAK trust digital repository, and only 7% had published their work in it.

Kaba and Said (2014) conducted a study to investigate the awareness, usage, and perception of open access among faculty members at AAU (Addis Ababa University). The study revealed that 90% of the faculty members were aware of open access resources. Furthermore, 91% of the faculty utilized open access resources for teaching and research activities. The study found that faculty members predominantly relied on platforms such as Google, Wikipedia, Answer.com, YouTube, and Yahoo for accessing open access resources. Specifically, 85% of faculty members reported using Google to find relevant information.

Uwaifo and Obuh (2013 conducted a study to investigate the attitude of researchers regarding the use of open access scholarly publications. The study found that respondents have a positive attitude toward using open access publications. The junior lecturers have high usage in comparison to senior lecturers. further, the study recommended that Open access publications should be encouraged by academic reward systems.

Ivwighreghweta and Onoriode (2012) conducted a study to investigate the "Awareness and use of open access journals by LIS students at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria." The study revealed that a majority of the students were not aware that Library Philosophy & Practice journal was an open access journal. However, despite this lack of awareness, 61% of the students accessed open access journals. Furthermore, 59% of the students strongly agreed that a lack of internet search skills was one of the challenges they faced in utilizing open access journals.

Obuh and Bozimo (2012) conducted a study titled "Awareness and Use of Open Access Scholarly Publications by LIS Lecturers in Southern Nigeria." respondents had a high level of awareness about open access publications. The responders' usage level is similarly high. According to the study, universities should create tactics such as institutional repositories and regulations that support the mandatory deposit of research works in open access archives.

Emojorho et al. (2012) conducted a study on awareness of open access scholarly publications. The study showed that respondents were highly aware of open access journals and institutional repositories. The survey also indicated that they learned about open access from colleagues, followed by conferences and workshops. Further, the study showed that the majority of participants agreed that open access scholarly publications improve the impact of researchers' work.

According to the above literature, many studies on open access resources have been conducted in the past, but no study has been conducted on open access resources awareness and usage by faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore. As a result, this study investigates the awareness level of open access resources, the purpose of using open access resources, and the problem encountered by faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore.

Rationale

HEI’s play an important role in the education system, as they provide diverse programs and courses that cater to students' interests, talents, and career aspirations. To ensure successful education delivery, it is important to assess faculty members' understanding and utilization of open access resources as they are the primary drivers of educational quality. Their ability to use a variety of open access resources improves their teaching, research, and administrative talents.

In the present digital environment, it is important to investigate faculty member’s use and understanding of open access resources. Although much research has been conducted in this area but there is presently no study has been conducted on faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI’s in Indore in terms of their awareness and use of open access resources and services so far. This research gap provides an opportunity for the current study to add to the existing literature and give significant insights regarding faculty members' awareness and usage of open access resources in these areas.

Limitations of the Study

The present study is confined only to faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines of higher educational institutions of Indore.

Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the level of awareness about open access resources among faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's of Indore.

2. To study the purpose of using open access resources by faculty members of the science, engineering, and management disciplines at HEI's of Indore.

3. To examine the amount of time spent in utilizing open access resources by faculty members of the science, engineering, and management disciplines at HEI's of Indore.

4. To study the satisfaction level of the faculty members in science, management, and engineering disciplines toward open access resources.

5. To investigate the highly used open access resources by faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines.

6. To propose initiatives that can be implemented to enhance faculty members' awareness and usage of open access resources in science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's of Indore.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of awareness among faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore regarding open access resources?

2. What extent do faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines utilize open access resources in their teaching, research, and professional activities at HEI's in Indore?

3. What are the perceived benefits and challenges associated with the use of open access resources among faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore?

4. What is the satisfaction level of the faculty members in science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore regarding open access resources?

5. What is the most preferred open access resource used by faculty members in science, management, and engineering disciplines?

6. What strategies or initiatives can be implemented to enhance faculty members' awareness and usage of open access resources in science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore regarding open access resources?

Hypotheses

- There is no significant difference in awareness level of science, management, and engineering faculty members on open access resources.

- There is no significant difference in usage of open access resources in science, management, and engineering faculty members.

- There is no significant difference in the awareness level of open access resources among science, management and engineering faculty members working in different positions.

- There is no significant difference in the satisfaction level of faculty members of the science, management, and engineering disciplines towards open access resources.

- There is no significant difference in time spent by the faculty members of the science, management, and engineering disciplines on using open access resources.

- There is no significant difference in most preferred open access resources among faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines.

- There is no significant difference in the purpose of using open access resources among faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines.

Methodology

1. Research Design: Study will be conducted using cross-sectional research design under descriptive research and according to cross-sectional research design the data will be collected at a specific time point.
2. Sampling Method: Purposive sampling.
3. Sampling Frame: Faculty members of science, management, and engineering disciplines of HEI's of Indore.
4. Data Collection:

    a. Questionnaire: A questionnaire will be developed according to the objectives of the study to collect data from faculty members of HEI's of Indore.

    b. Pilot study: With a small group of faculty members from each discipline, a pilot study will be conducted to evaluate the clarity and relevance of the questionnaire. After getting feedback from the pilot study, necessary changes will be made to ensure the questionnaire's validity and reliability.

    c. Data Collection Process: The final questionnaire will be distributed to the selected faculty members either online through mail or in person. Clear instructions will be provided about the questionnaire.
5. Data Analysis: Appropriate statistical tests will be used as needed.

Probable Outcomes

The result of this study will provide a clear status about the use and awareness level of faculty members in science, management, and engineering disciplines at HEI's in Indore regarding open access. This study will highlight the satisfaction level of faculty members with available open access resources. The result of this study will be beneficial to promote the use of open access resources among faculty members.

Chapterization

The thesis will be divided into the following seven chapters:

Chapter 1- Introduction

Chapter 2- Review of Literature

Chapter 3- Research Methodology

Chapter 4- Data analysis, Result, and Discussion

Chapter 5- Conclusion, Suggestions, and Implications.

Chapter 6- References

Chapter 7- Appendices

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